

judge. I thank my colleagues for supporting his confirmation.

CONFIRMATION OF HENRY FRANKLIN FLOYD

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased today to speak in support of Henry Floyd, who has been confirmed for the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

Judge Floyd has had a stellar legal career on both sides of the bench. He served as a private practice litigator for 19 years before being elevated to the 13th Judicial Circuit of South Carolina in 1992, where he currently sits. He has also served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

During his tenure in private practice, Judge Floyd specialized in civil, criminal, and domestic relations litigation, with a general practice of deeds, wills, and estates, and real estate closings. He represented regulated utilities, including an electric cooperative, municipalities, and the County of Pickens.

Judge Floyd served on the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, which was empowered to deal with complaints against members of the bar in the State and to make certain recommendations for disciplinary conduct.

Since his elevation to the bench, Judge Floyd has also been designated to sit as an Acting Justice on the South Carolina Supreme Court from time to time.

Judge Floyd is an extremely well-qualified nominee. He brings more than 30 years of legal experience to the Federal bench. I am confident that he will be a fine addition to the bench and thank my colleagues for supporting his confirmation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation, AAMR, in recognizing the recipients of the 2003 Direct Service Professional Award. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding devotion to the effort to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those for whom they care, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time at work in direct, personal involvement with their cli-

ents. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They go to work every day with little recognition, providing much needed and greatly valued care and assistance.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAMR's 2003 Direct Service Professional Award: Marsha Andrews, Abelardo Cabrerios, Janice Davila, Linda Dunlap, Sylvia Eiland, Guy Evans, Liz Foose, Tanya Garrett, Emma Grebenick, Jenny Greiner, James Harden, Susan Jauch, Carolyn Jones, Greg LeRette, Luvinia Mayfield, Broderick Porter, and Ginny Seaworth.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2003 Direct Service Professional Award. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.●

TREEPEOPLE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on October 11, TreePeople will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding. Few organizations have had such an impact, have energized so many volunteers or have so transformed a community as has TreePeople. I applaud them and thank them for their wonderful work over the past 30 years.

TreePeople, much like the trees it plants, started as a tiny seed before blossoming into the powerful organization it is today. TreePeople was founded by a then-15-year-old summer camper, Andy Lipkis. Andy, like many foresters, understood that substantial tree die offs in the local mountains were the consequence of Los Angeles' smog, and wanted to do something about it. Andy organized his fellow campers, and together they ripped up a parking lot and planted a meadow. But he was not finished. Andy next obtained 8,000 seedlings from the California Department of Forestry's surplus stock and started the California Conservation Project, later renamed "TreePeople."

Since its founding, TreePeople has been committed to planting trees millions of trees. They began by planting 50,000 trees with 50,000 student volunteers in environmental programs at Coldwater Canyon Park. Several years later, after the City of Los Angeles estimated that it would take 20 years to plant a million trees in order to comply with the Clean Air Act, TreePeople took on the project and did it in three years. Later, TreePeople helped launch the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and Kate and Andy Lipkis were elected to the United Nations Environmental Programme's Global 500 Honor Roll. TreePeople's work has extended across international boundaries with thousands of fruit trees being shipped to foreign lands to avert hunger and starvation.

TreePeople has also focused on environmental education programs and

played an important part in getting 60,000 elementary school children to work toward the City's goal of mandatory recycling. In the 1990s, TreePeople launched the Campus Forestry Program, now boasting the participation of more than one million children and teenagers. TreePeople has also developed the Trans-Agency Resources for Environment and Economic Sustainability, or T.R.E.E.S., program to promote better watershed management practices.

Today, TreePeople continues to work tirelessly to make Los Angeles a better and healthier place to live. TreePeople started modestly as one person with a dream. With steadfast determination and passion, his dream became a reality. Andy Lipkis is living proof that one person, with a corps of countless volunteers, can make a big difference. I commend his vision, and I applaud him and all those who helped make his vision tangible. TreePeople's greatest strength is in its ability to attract volunteers who are willing to work for a better community. I thank them for their great work.

I extend my congratulations to everyone involved with TreePeople on this special anniversary and wish them all many more years of continued success.●

RECOGNIZING ROBERT G. MACEACHRAN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to an exceptional educator from my home State of Michigan. On September 27th, Robert G. MacEachran will retire after 16 years as Superintendent of the Suttons Bay Public Schools. Mr. MacEachran's dedication to his students and lifelong commitment to maintaining a standard of excellence for the Suttons Bay Public Schools has made a great difference in the lives of many residents of northern Michigan.

Mr. MacEachran began his work in public education as a junior high school math teacher in the Battle Creek School District. He then moved to the East Grand Rapids School District and taught high school math for several years. With many years of teaching under his belt, he decided to pursue his longtime goal of becoming an educational administrator to ensure that schools maintained an environment that encouraged learning by stimulating the minds of all students. Mr. MacEachran moved to the Comstock Park Schools where he served as Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and Director of Community Service.

After 22 years of service as an educator, Mr. MacEachran moved to northern Michigan and took the position of Superintendent for the Suttons Bay public school system. In this position, he has stressed the importance of using the newest technology to ensure that students have all the resources needed to enrich their learning experience. Mr. MacEachran has also made great

strides in developing new relationships between private and public schools. He developed a partnership between the local Montessori school and Suttons Bay Public Schools that incorporates the Montessori educators and their techniques into the public school curriculum. He was also pivotal in the construction of a new high school. This new building allowed all K-12 grades to be moved to new classrooms.

The dedication and innovation that Robert MacEachran has brought to the Suttons Bay Public Schools during his 16-year tenure as Superintendent and 38 years within the Michigan public school community is exceptional. He has demonstrated unwavering support for the education of Michigan's youth. The legacy that he has left within the Suttons Bay public school system will endure after his retirement. Future generations will greatly benefit from his commitment to the education and development of all children. I am confident my colleagues will join me in offering our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Robert G. MacEachran and in wishing him well in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING TONY AUTORE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize Tony Autore for his outstanding commitment to community service in my home State of Michigan. On September 26, 2003, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency will honor Tony for his exemplary service to the Eastern Upper Peninsula and to the Community Action Agency.

Tony began his service to the community in 1952, when he entered the United States Army and served until he was honorably discharged in 1954. After his two years in the Army, Tony moved to Cedarville, MI, with his wife Ethel and began a successful local business. Tony's service continued as he became a member of the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recently hosted the Michigan Outdoor Writers' winter and summer conventions, bringing over 300 writers to the area to discuss and celebrate the conservation and preservation of the state of Michigan's natural resources.

Tony has also served his community on the Clark Township volunteer fire department and the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation Board and was instrumental in establishing a Boy Scout Troop in the area. Along with these activities, Tony has devoted his time and talent improving his community for others as a member of the planning commission, the Mackinac County Housing Commission, and the economic development corporation. Tony has also been involved with other local organizations. He is a member of the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the Christopher Columbus Association.

For the past 18 years, Tony has served on the Board of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action

Agency. He is currently the treasurer of the group, which strives to address poverty by helping to enable people to become self-sufficient members of society. The counsel and advice he has given the Agency Director and staff have been invaluable. During his time with the agency he has helped provide a truck and driver free of charge to help with the periodic distribution of food commodities in the area. Additionally, through his ties to the local community, Tony helped the agency secure use of the town hall for senior congregate meals. Tony also assisted the Community Action Agency in the development of a Head Start Center in Cedarville. Appropriately, this center will be dedicated as the "Autore Center, Community Action Agency Head Start".

I am confident that my colleagues in the Senate will join with me in thanking Tony Autore for his outstanding service to his community and congratulate him on receiving this high honor from the Community Action Agency.●

KEN FERGESON, CHAIRMAN OF THE ABA

● Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oklahoman who has climbed to the top of his profession. Today, Ken Fergeson, from Altus, OK, is being installed as the American Bankers Association chairman. He is also the chairman of National Bank Commerce in Altus.

Ken has been active in the ABA for many years. He has chaired its Government Relations Council, Community Bankers Council, a joint trade association Credit Union Steering Committee and Minbanc Capital Corp., in addition to serving on the board of the Corporation for American Banking. He also served on the ABA Communications Council, Education Foundation and Professional Development Council, and chaired the Oklahoma Banker's Association.

After graduating from college Ken began his career at Liberty Bank in Oklahoma City. A native Texan, Ken had interviewed and considered a better job offer from a Houston Bank, but he decided to go with the Liberty job in part because, as he joked, it had cheaper parking.

It was at Liberty that Ken first became involved in the ABA and the Oklahoma Bankers Association as well as numerous charitable organizations, trade groups and civic organizations.

After leaving Liberty, Ken went on to purchase National Bank Commerce in Altus. At the time of the purchase the 38-year-old father of two didn't have the money to buy the bank, but he knew if he could somehow find it he could make the venture work. So he decided to take some risks that he admits were "stupid" in retrospect: he got the biggest loan he could get, sold his house, withdrew his kid's college funds, and issued debentures and subor-

dated notes. His risk was rewarded as he expanded the bank's markets and customer base.

Ken's success has grown over the decades, and for good reason. He conducts business with one concern in mind: What is best for the customer? He understands that a bank that conducts business in this manner will retain customers for life. Ken tells his employees not to "sell anything you wouldn't sell your mother." Many today will see this mentality as old fashioned, but you can't argue with success.

When Ken was approached by his daughter about her desire to be a foreign missionary, his response was telling of his view of his business. He encouraged her to come to work for the bank. Ken noted that there is no greater mission field than the "ministry of banking." In his own words he explains that the banking industry helps people "plan for their children's education, or buy their first home, or plan for retirement, or expand a business. If those outcomes are not a ministry, I don't know what is."

The next chairman of the ABA will bring this experience and worldview to bear upon his new post. He plans on making ethics a central theme of his chairmanship. Ken believes that in life and in business you need a set of ethics to live by so that when tough decisions come your way, you will have a moral reference point to help you reach a conclusion. I am excited about Ken's chairmanship and the ideas and values he will bring to the table.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ken and his family and I wish him all the best as he takes his new post.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on September 18, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS):

S. 520. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho.

S. 678. An act to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters' organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.